Government was incomplete and accordingly, the State Government was requested to submit complete compliance report which is still awaited.

National Green Tribunal

1670. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has mooted a proposal to set up a National Green Tribunal, to deal with civil issues related to environment and forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the exact number of cases pertaining to environmental and forest disputes pending in courts; and

(d) to what extent the creation of the Tribunal is likely to assist in disposing of cases relating to environment and forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bill for establishment of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is under finalization.

(c) As environmental cases are inter-sectoral and cross-cutting in nature it is difficult to exactly quantify the same.

(d) The NGT intends to reduce the load of environmental cases, of civil nature, pending in higher courts and to help in speedy disposal of such cases. Since the NGT is proposed to have Judicial Members as well as Expert Members, it is likely to result in effective disposal of environmental cases which involve multi-disciplinary issues.

Van Gujjars in Tiger Reserves

1671. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to depute trained Van Gujjars' and 'Villagers', instead of police personnel, in various tiger reserves and other wildlife sanctuaries all over the country to protect tigers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has held consultations with State Governments/Senior Forest Officers in providing security and safety to tigers; and

(d) if so, the outcome of such consultations and the manner in which tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries would be protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Funding support under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is provided to tiger States for antipoaching operations, *interalia*, involving local people